REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 14, 23, 30 and 32 will have been amended in order to clarify the language thereof but without narrowing the scope of these claims. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding objection and rejections and an indication of the allowability of all the claims in the present application is respectfully requested in due course. Such action is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner confirmed consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application on January 5, 2006. The Examiner also indicated that the outstanding double-patenting rejection had been withdrawn because of the amendment of the claims in the two applications.

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for considering the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement as well as for withdrawing the double-patenting rejection asserted in the previous Official Action.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to claims 14, 16, 18-20, 23-27 and 29-32 because of the use of various acronyms. Applicants respectfully traverse the above objection and submit that it is inappropriate.

Initially, Applicants note that each of the "acronyms" referred to by the Examiner are extremely conventional and their meanings are standard throughout the telecommunications technology area. As such, Applicants note that TADA (U.S. Patent No. 6,237,040), relied upon by the Examiner in the rejection of the claims in the present application, makes extensive use of such “acronyms” in the claims without defining such terms in the claims. It is respectfully submitted that in view of the well-known and

conventional nature of each of these terms, such definition, within the claims, is unnecessary.

Similarly, others of these "acronyms" are also utilized within the claims of CHEN (U.S. Patent No. 6,836,792) also made of record in the present application by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submits that in view of the fact that each of these "acronyms" have well-defined and clearly understood meanings in the relevant technology, no indefiniteness or ambiguity is introduced into the claims by the use of such terms. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that there is no need to define these terms in the claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the claims in the present application.

Applicants additionally note that the original claims in the present application contained these "acronyms" and no objection was made thereto in the first Official Action in the present application. For this additional reason, it is respectfully submitted that making such an objection at this time is particularly inappropriate.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 30 and 32 because of various language informalities.

In this regard, Applicants have amended the language of claims 30 and 32 to eliminate each of the language informalities noted.

However, regarding the Examiner's objection to the term "extracting the image data from the HTML data" (claim 32), Applicants submit that the Examiner is incorrect. In this regard, Applicants note that the receiving of the HTML data is explicitly recited as "including image data". Thus, there is adequate antecedent basis for extracting the "image data" from the HTML data. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the

Examiner reconsider and withdraw each of the rejections of any of the claims in the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 14-18, 22, 23, 25-26 and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over OKADA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,876,462) in view of TADA (U.S. Patent No. 6,237,040). Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over OKADA-TADA in view of GUEDALIA et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0042136). Claims 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over OKADA-TADA-GUEDALIA and further in view of BARLOW et al. (U.S. Patent 6,038,551). Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over OKADA-TADA in view of IIDA (U.S. Patent No. 6,900,903). Finally, claims 27-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over OKADA-TADA and further in view of BARLOW et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,551).

Applicants respectfully traverses each of the above-noted rejections and submit that they are inappropriate and inapplicable with respect to the claims in the present application at least for the reasons to be set forth herein below. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections together with an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Applicants invention as defined, e.g., by the recitations of claim 14, relates to a communication control apparatus which includes a first interface connected to a network that is controlled by a server in accordance with a HTTP protocol and a second interface connected to an Internet facsimile apparatus that transmits e-mail data in accordance with a SMTP protocol. A SMTP processor controls communication with the

Internet facsimile apparatus in accordance with the SMTP protocol and a HTTP processor controls communication with the server in accordance with the HTTP protocol. An e-mail communicator receives the e-mail data from the Internet facsimile apparatus under the control of the SMTP processor, a processor produces command data for the server based on the e-mail data received from the Internet facsimile apparatus, and a communicator transmits the command data produced by the processor and the e-mail data received from the Internet facsimile apparatus through the server under the control of the HTTP processor. It is respectfully submitted that at least the combination of features recited in Applicants claim 14 are not taught, disclosed nor rendered obvious by the OKADA reference relied upon by the Examiner.

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner asserts that OKADA discloses a processor that produces command data for the server based on e-mail data received from the Internet facsimile apparatus and appears to consider this limitation to be met by the CPU 1 instructing the facsimile section 6 to transmit a request while the facsimile section 6 performs the request. However, the instruction by the CPU 1 to the facsimile section 6 does not comprise "command data for the server" as recited in Applicants' claim.

OKADA et al. relates to a NETFAX 14 as shown in Fig. 3, the components of which are illustrated in Fig. 1 thereof. In particular, while the CPU 1 of Fig. 1 clearly controls the fax section, there is no indication and there is no disclosure therein of a processor that produces "command data for the server" based on e-mail received from the Internet facsimile apparatus. In OKADA et al., the Internet facsimile apparatus appears to be the node 12, based on the Examiner's rejection. However, the instruction by the CPU 1 to the facsimile section 6 is not a command data for a server. The CPU 1

and facsimile section 6 are both internal components of the NETFAX 14 and the commands referenced by the Examiner and not disclosed to be "command data for the server". It is clear from Fig. 4 of OKADA et al., that the communications and commands transmitted between the CPU 1 and the facsimile section 6 are internal of the NETFAX 14 and thus do not satisfy the recitation of command data for the server. Accordingly, at least for this reason, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claims are clearly patentable over OKADA et al.

Moreover, in setting forth the rejection, the Examiner asserts that the recited second interface of Applicants' claim is met by the serial interfaces 29 and 35. However, Applicants' claim recites the second interface as connected to an Internet facsimile apparatus. In direct contrast, the interfaces 29 and 35 are clearly internal to the NETFAX 14 and enable communication between the fax control section 21 and the LAN control section 30. Accordingly, OKADA et al. also does not disclose a second interface as recited in Applicants' claim.

Moreover, in setting forth the rejection, the Examiner appears to equate the Internet facsimile apparatus of Applicants' claim with to requesting node 12. However, there no indication in OKADA et al. that the requesting node 12 comprises an Internet facsimile apparatus as connoted by the ordinary meaning of this term. As clearly shown in Fig. 3, node 12 is an ordinary PC. In direct contrast, facsimile machines are disclosed in OKADA et al. as NETFAXes 14 and 20 and G3 fax 16. Accordingly, for this yet additional reason, the Examiner's rejection based on OKADA et al. is submitted to be inappropriate.

The Examiner admits that OKADA does not disclose the use of HTTP and SMTP protocols and processors. The Examiner relies on TADA et al. for teaching the

conventionality of these features. In this regard, while Applicants clearly do not dispute the conventionality of HTTP and SMTP protocols or processors using such protocols, Applicants' claim very specifically recites that the first interface is controlled in accordance with a HTTP protocol while the second interface is controlled in accordance with a SMTP protocol. Similarly, Applicants' claim recites a SMTP processor that control communication with the Internet facsimile apparatus and an HTTP processor that controls communication with the server. The particular use of the combination of these explicitly recited protocols and processors in the precise manner set forth in Applicants' claims is not taught, disclosed nor rendered obvious by TADA. Accordingly, for this yet additional reason, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection is inappropriate and improper.

Moreover, even though the use of these protocols and processors for using such protocols are known, the Examiner has not provided any motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to pick and choose from the protocols of the prior art to use one protocol for the first interface and another protocol for the second interface as required by the various claim combinations. For this additional reason, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection is inappropriate and improper.

Accordingly, at least for each of the above-noted reasons and certainly for all of the above-noted reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of Applicants' claims is inappropriate and improper. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested in due course.

Additionally, Applicants note that the U.S. filing date of OKADA et al. is October 17, 2001. In contrast, Applicants' U.S. filing date is August 2, 2001. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully submit that the disclosure of OKADA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,876,462) is not available against the claims of the present application.

Applicants also note that the Examiner has made the outstanding Official Action final. Applicants respectfully submit that such finality is inappropriate, at least since the Examiner has set forth a new objection to the claim language not necessitated by any claim amendments. Moreover, the Examiner has set forth a new rejection of Applicants' claims based upon a reference, the disclosure of which is not available with respect to the claims of the present application. Accordingly, should the Examiner substitute another reference for the OKADA reference applied in the outstanding Official Action, Applicants submit that it would be inappropriate to make the outstanding Official Action final.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action together with an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending herein, in due course.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have amended the claims to eliminate various language informalities noted by the Examiner. Applicants have further traversed the Examiner's objections to the claim language.

With respect to the prior art rejection, Applicants have discussed the same and pointed out that the significant and substantial shortcomings of the references with respect thereto. Applicants have further discussed the limitations of Applicants' claims and have pointed out those aspects to the present invention not taught, disclosed nor rendered obvious by the references cited by the Examiner. Applicants have additionally discussed the lack of motivation for the Examiner's proposed combination. Accordingly, Applicants have provided a clear evidentiary basis supporting the patentability of all the claims in the present application and respectfully request an indication to such effect in due course.

The amendments to the claims, which have been submitted in this amendment, have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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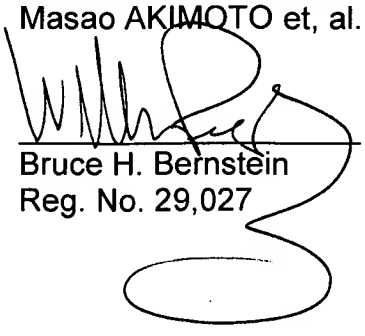

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